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it is only the resinous lines, which leave any impression. Chauvron is said to have printed a considerable quantity of music in this manner.

It ought to be observed, that in those printing-houses, where they do not make use of nitric acid, they always produce a very inferior kind of work, and can only take off a very small number of impressions. It therefore appears that the use of nitric acid cannot be too strongly recommended; and after what has been already said, the reason is evident.

Account of the Spartum or Broom Plant, and of various uses which are made of it, from Beckman's history of Inventions, vol. 2, p. 287.

Accounts having been given in vol. 3, p. 457, and in this volume, p. 184, of methods of preparing flax from the broom plant, the following extract from Beckman is presented to our readers on account of the valuable information which it contains on the subject, as forming a good sequel to what has already appeared.

"The antients, and particularly the Greeks, understood by *spartum* a shrub, the slender branches of which were woven into baskets of various kinds, and which produced young shoots that could be prepared and manufactured in the same manner as hemp; and this plant, as has been remarked by the old botanists, is the *spartum junceum*, or Spainsh broom, which grows wild on dry land, that produces nothing else in the Levant, and in the southern parts of Europe. This broom is that described and recommended in *Comment instituti Bononiensis*, v. i. p. 349, and v. i. p. 118 The French translator of the papers here alluded to is much mistaken, when he thinks in *Journal economique*, 1785 *Novembre*, that the author speaks of the common broom (*spartum scoparium*) that grows on our moors. Mr. Broussonet, in *memoires d'agriculture, par la societe de Paris* 1785, *trimestre d'automne* p. 127, has also recommended the cultivation of *spart. junceum*, under the name of *genet* d'Espagne, and enumerated the many uses to which it may be applied. The people in lower Languedoc, especially in the neighbourhood of Lodeve, make of it table cloths, shirts and other articles of dress. The offal or rind serves as firing. This *sparton* of the Greeks or *spartum junceum* of the botanists, is the species called by Pliny, book 39, chap. 9, *genista*, and which he improperly considers as the Spanish and African *spartum*. The latter is certainly the *stipa tenacissima*, which grows in Spain and Africa, called there at present *sparto* or *esparto*, and which is still prepared and employed, as described by Pliny, b. 19, c. 2. Baskets, mattresses, ship cables, and other strong ropes were made of it; and when this rush was prepared like hemp, it was used for various fine works. Even at present the Spaniards make of it a kind of shoes called *alpergates*. with which they carry on a great trade to the Indies, where they are very useful on the hot, rocky and sandy soil. The best account of this rush may be found in *Clusii histor. plantar.* rar. p. 220 : in *Lofling's Reisebeschreibung, Berlin* 1776, 8vo. p. 169; *Osbeck's reise*, p. 18 ; the Paris *schauplatz der kunste*, and the *encyclopedie methodique des manufactures par Roland de la Platiere* art. *sparte*. Whether the ancients made shoes for their cattle of the spartum junceum or the *stipa tenacissima*, I will not venture to determine. It is probable that the former was used by the Greeks, and the latter by the Romans: and it is highly worthy of being here remarked, that in modern times a kind of socks for horses were made of a species of *spartum*, as we learn from John Leo, who says; *Quosdam reperias qui sportas certosque funiculos parant, quos Afrani equorum pedibus addere solent : J. Leonis Africæ descriptio* Antverpiæ, 1556, 8vo. Lib. 3, p. 120.

Account of the South American plant Arracacha, from a description given by Mr. Vargas.

Annals of Botany, No. 2, p. 460.

The plant known in Santafe de Bogota by the name of Arrhacacha, is one of the most useful of all the vegetables of that part of America. It belongs to the order of *Umbelliferæ*, and in its habits resembles an *Apium*;